

UCAS & YOU

KNGS Sixth Form



4 Steps to UCAS

Four Steps

Four Stages

Your Future

Your Choice

Step 1: Choosing courses



- Do as much research as possible so that you choose the right course for the right reasons
- Choosing which university or college to go to can be a life-changing decision

Step 1: Which University?

University or
College?

Town or Country?

Home or Away?



Russell Group Universities

Russell Group universities are committed to the highest levels of academic excellence in both teaching and research.

Our universities are to be found in all four nations and in every major city of the UK.

- [Birmingham](#)
- [Bristol](#)
- [Cambridge](#)
- [Cardiff University](#)
- [Edinburgh](#)
- [Glasgow](#)
- [Imperial College London](#)
- [King's College London](#)
- [University of Leeds](#)
- [University of Liverpool](#)

- [London School of Economics & Political Science](#)
- [University of Manchester](#)
- [Newcastle University](#)
- [University of Nottingham](#)
- [Oxford](#)
- [Queen's University Belfast](#)
- [University of Sheffield](#)
- [University of Southampton](#)
- [University College London](#)
- [Warwick](#)



Which is the best university or college?



- Different places suit different people, so it depends what you're looking for
- There is no national curriculum for higher education courses
- [Quality Assurance Agency](#) carries out external reviews
- [Unistats](#) website contains statistics and reports about students' views on the quality of teaching
- We support **all** applicants to get to where they need to be.

Step One: Choosing Courses

Subject?

Point Scores?

Entry Profiles?



Step One: Choosing Courses.

Tariff Points

What are UCAS Tariff points?

UCAS Tariff points translate your qualifications and grades into a numerical value. Many qualifications (but not all) have a UCAS Tariff value, which will vary dependent on the qualification size, and the grade you achieved. This numerical value is used by HE course providers to assess whether you meet their entry requirements for a particular course.

How are UCAS Tariff points used?

Some universities, colleges, and conservatoires refer to UCAS Tariff points in their course entry requirements, but qualifications which do not receive Tariff points may be accepted too – so make sure you check the course entry requirements carefully.

A Level	EPQ
A* = 56	A* = 28
A = 48	A = 24
B = 40	B = 20
C = 32	C = 16
D = 24	D = 12
E = 16	E = 8

- Each course has a specific **Entry Profile**
- This will inform you of what the university or college are looking for: skills; experience; qualifications; these need to be addressed in your Personal Statement

Academic History

- This includes details of previous qualifications like A-levels, GCSEs, vocational qualifications, and other relevant exams.

UCAS Tariff Points

- Some universities use UCAS Tariff points, a system that converts qualifications into a points-based score, to help compare applicants.

Entry Requirements

- Universities have specific entry requirements for each course, which define the qualifications and scores needed to be admitted.

Personal History

- This may include information about prior work experience, extracurricular activities, and any relevant skills or attributes.

Point of Entry

- In some cases, an entry profile might also indicate the year of the course a student is starting (e.g., year 2 or 3) if they are transferring from another institution.

Step one: Choosing Courses. Entry Profiles.

2026 key dates

APR
29

UCAS' search tool displays 2026 courses

MAY
06

The adviser portal opens for 2026 entry

You can set up your adviser portal ready for your students to link to your centre.

MAY
13

Undergraduate applications open for 2026 entry

Students can start their applications and send them to you for references and approval.

JUL
10

Conservatoire applications open for 2026 entry

Applicants can register, pay, and send their applications.

SEP
02

Completed undergraduate applications can be submitted to UCAS

OCT
02

(18:00 UK time) Application deadline for conservatoire music applications

OCT
15

(18:00 UK time) Deadline for applications to the universities of Oxford and Cambridge, and for most courses in medicine, dentistry, and veterinary medicine/science

The reference must be completed before the application can be sent to us.

JAN
14

(18:00 UK time) Equal consideration date for applications for most undergraduate courses

- The reference must be completed before the application can be sent to us.
- Deadline for most conservatoire undergraduate dance, drama or musical theatre courses. Check on the specific course to be sure.

FEB
10

UCAS Conservatoires applicant decline by default (DBD)

If applicants receive all decisions by 8 January, they must reply by 10 February, otherwise their application will be declined by default (DBD).

FEB
26

Extra opens

Applicants who have used all five choices and are not holding any offers may be able to add another choice in their application.

JUN
30

Last date for receipt of applications with choices

Applications received after this deadline are automatically entered into [Clearing](#).

JUL
04

Extra closes

JUL
05

Clearing opens

Vacancies are shown in the [UCAS search tool](#).

Step Two: Applying

- **Cost:** £28.95.
- **Application types:** Undergraduate and Conservatoires.
- **Number of choices:** Covers up to five university choices.
- **Fee waivers:** Applicants may be eligible for a fee waiver if they received free school meals at some point during the last six years or were in secondary education up until the end of their final year.
- You will need to create an online account
- You will be issued with our **sixth form buzzword**
- You make the payment when you have completed your sections of the application



Step Two: Applying

- This buzzword links your application to your centre.
- We can read and monitor your application.
- Your referee writes and attaches your reference.
- We check and send your completed application to UCAS.

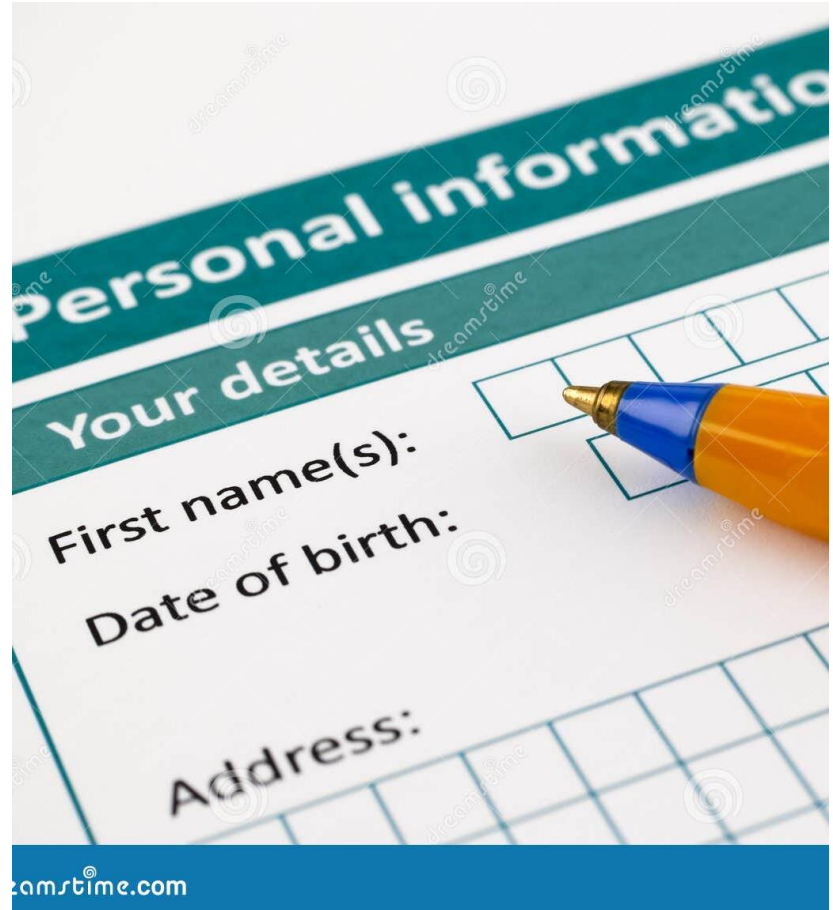


BUZZWORD

Step Two: Applying

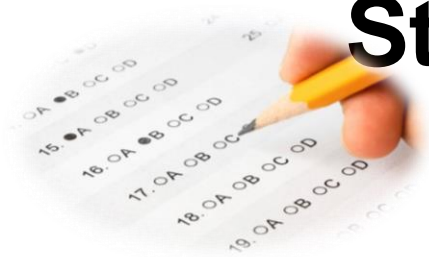
- Enter your personal details
- Education details
- GCSE results, music examinations, BTECs etc

This is straightforward and should be completed when you log on

A close-up photograph of a white form with green headers. The header 'Personal information' is partially visible. Below it, a green bar contains the text 'Your details'. The form has several fields: 'First name(s):', 'Date of birth:', and 'Address:'. A yellow and blue pen is resting on the 'Date of birth:' field. The form is set against a light blue background. The watermark 'dreamstime' is visible across the image. The URL 'amstime.com' is visible in the bottom left corner of the image.

- GCSE subjects and grades entered.
- A Level results are entered as **PENDING**
- Your tutor cannot enter your predicted grades if you do not state **'Pending'**

Step Two: Applying



Personal Statement

- Your personal statement is a chance to get noticed for the unique talents and experiences you have. It's an important part of the application process as it's an opportunity to talk about yourself and your passions, outside of your grades.
- We're going to talk you through how to make the most of the 4000 characters in your tutor time and support you to write a personal statement that stands out.





Step Two: Applying. Personal Statement

Step Two: Applying. References

- UCAS References are written by your subject tutors and compiled by your form tutor and checked by Miss Ledwidge.



Step Three: Offers

Once UCAS receive your application they send it to the universities you are applying to.

Admission Tutors read and evaluate applications as they come in and begin to send out offers.

Conditional offers:

These require you to meet specific conditions, usually academic grades, before your place is confirmed.

Unconditional offers:

These offer you a place without any further conditions.

Invitations to interviews or auditions:

Some universities may invite you for interviews or auditions before making an offer.

Waiting for decisions:

You'll need to wait for decisions from **all** the universities you've applied to, which can take some time.



Step Three: Offers. Accepting and Replying to Offers

- **Choose your firm choice:** This is your first choice university.
- **Choose your insurance choice:** This is your backup/insurance* university.
- **Reply to offers:** You'll need to reply to all offers, accepting your firm and insurance choices and declining others.
- **Deadlines:** Be aware of the deadlines for replying to offers, as these are usually in June or July.
- **UCAS Hub:** You'll manage your offers and replies through the [UCAS Hub](#).

**Your backup or insurance choice should require lower grades or fewer UCAS points*



Step Four : Results Day and Beyond



- **Meeting conditions:**
- If you meet the conditions of your firm choice, your place is confirmed.
- **Missing conditions:**
- If you miss the grades for your firm choice, you may still be accepted, depending on available spaces.
- **Insurance choice:**
- If your firm choice is unsuccessful, your insurance choice may be confirmed.
- **Clearing:**
- If neither your firm nor insurance choice is confirmed, you may enter Clearing.
- **Alternative courses:**
- In some cases, you may be offered a place on an alternative course by your firm choice of university

- **YOUR** UCAS Journey is an important one and We are here to support you every step of the way



Your Decision Your Choice Your Future